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DO NOT REMOVE
THIS MEANS WOMEN SLACKERS?

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Luncheon to the Prime Minister of New Zealand and Sir Joseph Ward	559
Problems of Women's Labour	560
The Women's Police Service	561
A Feminist in the Reign of Queen Anne	562
Palliatives	564
Women Slackers?	565
How the Women's Vote is Organised in the U.S.A.	566

[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Shakespeare on the Recommendations of the Speaker's Conference.

What years i' faith?
Above your years, my Lord.
Too old, by heaven! . . .
For, boy, however we do praise ourselves,
Our fancies are more giddy and unfirm,
More longing, wavering, sooner lost and won,
Than women's are.

Electoral Reform Conference.

The Report of the Speaker's Conference on electoral reform was published on January 30th. It has reached a unanimous agreement upon a great many long-disputed questions, but upon the most important matter of all included within its terms of reference it has been able only to make a majority recommendation. "The Conference decided by a majority," the report says, "that some measure of Women's Suffrage should be conferred." It will be for the Government or the House of Commons to determine how far this takes us towards a settlement. The report is in the hands of the Prime Minister, and the Parliament that meets next week will hear what he may have to add to its conclusions.

Practical Proposals.

The Conference, after adopting the principle of Women's Suffrage, considered that the most practical form in which it could be granted would be that "any woman on the Local Government Register who has attained a specified age, and the wife of any man on that Register, if she has attained that age, shall be entitled to be registered and to vote as a Parliamentary elector." Various ages were discussed, of which thirty and thirty-five received most favour. This proposal is the most timid and limited form of franchise yet suggested. Not only is it proposed that the basis upon which women are to be enfranchised should be strictly limited, but also that the age limit for women should be raised to a truly preposterous height. It seems strange that at a time like this men should be so desperately afraid of women as to find it necessary to suggest this double form of restriction.

The numbers of women enfranchised by this proposal will be smaller than those included in any previous Bill, with the exception of the Conciliation Bill. Certain very important sections of women would be exciuded, notably the unmarried women in industry. If any women have deserved well of their country, it is these; and of all women needing the vote, they are perhaps the most unprotected. We cannot believe that it is either wise or fair to omit them from the electorate. Another very important class of women who would be excluded would be the young widows with households to control and children to bring up. These, who have given their best to the State, have surely done nothing to deserve a special disqualification, and the country would not wish them to be omitted.

We do not believe that a measure so narrow as this will receive the support of the Prime Minister or of the House of Commons, and we hope that they may greatly improve these imperfect recommendations.

National Service for Men (and Women).

The announcement of the proposals of the Director of National Service for organising the man-power of the nation were greeted with very severe criticism by the Press. The criticisms were largely based upon the fact that while calling upon men between the ages of eighteen and sixty to volunteer for national service, he announced that women were not wanted yet, but might be dealt with later. The tone of his announcement is much to be deplored, but, nevertheless, in spite of much justice in the attacks levelled against him, we cannot but think that Mr. Chamberlain was wise not to issue a general appeal to women to come forward for national service before he had prepared the machinery with which to deal with the mob of volunteers that would ensue, or the plans upon which they are to be enrolled and placed at work. Too often in the past women have been disheartened by appeals that were mere empty words.

It is, nevertheless, most extraordinary that a man proposing to tackle the infinitely complex problem of the organisation of the working power of the nation should think it possible that he can do so in sections, and that he should not carry on the organisation of women simultaneously with that of men. In answer to his critics, he has said that the task of the department is stupendous, and that schemes for the women's side of the work are now being prepared; but that answer is not very convincing. Why have not these schemes been prepared simultaneously with those for men? Mr. Chamberlain may say, and with justice, that one man cannot do everything. But one man ought not to do everything, and it is difficult to see why, during the last few weeks, women should not have been working for him. A women's department, to deal with a woman's problem, with advice and help from women of experience and proved ability, might have saved the Director of National Service much needless trouble and annoyance: it might still save his scheme from ruin and his office from confusion, and we earnestly hope that he is calling it into existence.

Meanwhile, of course, the lesson is obvious. If even in such a task as this a Government Department finds it impossible to remember that women exist, and are important; and if, even in the face of the most violent pressure and the most urgent public clamour they hesitate to entrust anything of magnitude

to women, surely the time has come for something drastic to be done. If women cannot be remembered in a State constituted as is Great Britain, clearly it must quickly be constituted differently. Let us try whether votes for women will not help Ministers and Directors to remember that women are part of the people.

Less Beer and Spirits—More Bread.

An Order restricting the output of beer and imposing a corresponding restriction on the release from bond of wines and spirits, was issued by the Food Controller last week.

The output of beer is to be reduced as from April 1 to 70 per cent. of the output for the current financial year ending March 31. This will mean the reduction by 50 per cent. of pre-war brewing, and its effect will be threefold. It will mean an increase in the amount of barley, sugar, and other brewing ingredients available for food purposes; it will set free tonnage, transport, labour, and fuel for purposes other than brewing; it will give an increase of from 25 to 40 per cent. in the offals used by farmers for feeding animals. Thus it will increase the supply of milk and meat as well as restricting the waste of grain.

Cabinet Housekeeping.

It is not at all surprising that the result of the Order cutting down the number of courses at a meal to two or three, has resulted in a large increase in the consumption of butchers' meat. As we pointed out at the time, it was bound to have that effect. To a Cabinet Minister, it seemed, no doubt, a return to a simpler life to order "all kickshaws off the bill of fare!" But any woman householder could have told him that the greatest secret of kitchen strategy is to delay the attack on the joint. The French, the most economical caterers in Europe, have taught us to interpose soup, cereals, fish, or vegetables between a hungry man and the most expensive item in the menu; and certainly, from a national point of view, all of these are to be preferred. "Simple food," as a French lady said recently, "does not necessarily mean food prepared without trouble," and a really economical meal takes a good deal of thinking out. Perhaps, in time, we may get common sense infused into our food controllers. In the earlier phases of the war no man would hear of women-cooks for our armies, who had a good deal to put up with in the shape of spoiled food. But it has been discovered that women cooks are well suited to the work, and no one has a word to say against the new dispensation. In time, the Cabinet may also find out the value of women in a matter of national housekeeping.

Purging the Cinema.

It is perhaps worth while to allude to the suggestion put forward by a Mr. F. R. Goodwin in giving evidence on behalf of the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association before the Cinema Commission. In his opinion, *every woman* over fourteen should be re-registered, "a personal card issued to every female, giving certain particulars," and this card should be produced on demand by any authorised person, under penalty. Every convicted prostitute would have an identity card marked to that effect, and the "pests now poisoning the metropolis" could be eliminated. Deportation of the foreign element and isolation of the rest to follow.

This pronouncement, artless though it may be, is not without significance. It is usually in this spirit and temper that the male reformer, from Tertullian downwards, starts out to cleanse the ways of youth. The male pest, and the degenerates who haunt cinemas, and are a nuisance to decent women, and a menace to children in the parks and elsewhere, constitute a very serious danger to society. Is every man over fourteen, therefore, to be re-registered, and, if necessary, segregated "in a working settlement"? Apparently not. So long as the masculinist's panacea, "Lock up the woman," is the beginning and end of all social reform, so long will social reforms remain a dead letter.

The Cabmen and Women Drivers.

A curious sidelight is shed upon the opposition of cab-drivers to the entrance of women among their ranks. In the course of a recent prosecution it was proved that the keeper of a disorderly house in Bloomsbury was in the habit of paying large sums annually as commission to cabmen for "introducing guests." Over £500 had been paid in this way in the last two years. The great anxiety of cabmen receiving these illicit profits to keep their ill-gotten gains a "trade secret," is perfectly comprehensible. Much less comprehensible is the ludicrously inadequate fine of £20 imposed by the magistrate at Bow Street upon the principal offenders, who were stated to be making a gross income of some thousands per annum.

The "Common Cause" Scholarships for Commercial Chemistry.

We have the pleasure of announcing that, of the two Common Cause Scholarships of £75, offered by our readers to enable a woman graduate in chemistry to take up special research, one has been awarded to Miss Olive Workman, of Hornsey, who is at once beginning her course of study at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington. Miss Workman was educated at Swansea and at University College, where last October she took a B.Sc. degree with honours in chemistry. At the Imperial College she is taking up work in physical chemistry as a training for a post for the preparation of drugs for commercial purposes—a department of knowledge in which workers are specially and urgently needed just now.

The Committee recommend that the second scholarship should be held over until the end of the scholastic year, as no other applicant fulfilling all the conditions has presented herself. The Committee consider that the scarcity of candidates is in itself a very encouraging sign; that the value of women with a scientific training is being so far recognised; that such women are now snapped up for posts which before the war would not, perhaps, have been open to them. The Committee hope that a second satisfactory candidate will be enabled to take a year of post-graduate study, to fit her to take part in productive work.

Women's Suffrage in the U.S.A.

The cause of Women's Suffrage has made almost unexampled progress in the U.S.A. during the past year, states *The Woman's Journal* of December 23rd.

"For the first time, both of the great political parties have put in their national platforms, planks declaring unequivocally that women ought to vote. For the first time, a woman has been elected to Congress, and a woman whose high character makes it certain that she will do honour to her constituents and to her sex. For the first time, the women's vote has been a large and important factor in a great national election. Last, but not least, the white territory on the suffrage map of North America has been practically doubled during 1916—the biggest gain that the cause has ever made in any single year."

"Suffrage," continues *The Woman's Journal*, "has won an important step in Congress. The Federal Amendment has been reported out by the House Judiciary Committee. It is to be hoped that this marks the end of the Bluebeard policy of smothering the measure in committee—a policy to which its opponents have clung so obstinately and so long. It was reported out non-committally, without a declaration by the commitee either for or against its passage; but the majority of the committee, including even a few of the opponents, felt that they could no longer be responsible for the mean policy of refusing to let Congress vote upon the question.

"Now is the time to press for the passage of the Amendment. Every person of intelligence knows that it is only a question of time when the measure will go through Congress, and every man of political acumen ought to see the importance to his party of taking a right stand upon it, as a matter not only of justice, but of practical political wisdom."

The last Presidential Elections made sweeping conversions, says the *Journal*, and it is now being widely said that it is an outrage for the women of the East to be debarred from a right possessed and exercised by the women of the West. "Let Congress submit the Amendment and put the question set to the States. Justice and expediency alike call for such action."

An Important Manifesto.

A Manifesto, signed by a number of influential people, has appeared in *The Times*, urging that, in the interests of national solidarity, women must be enfranchised at once if there is any extension of the male electorate.

Among the signatories were :—

The Masters of Downing and Selwyn Colleges; Sir Clifford Albutt, M.D., F.R.S.; Sir Francis Darwin, F.R.S.; Professors James Ward, Stanley Gardiner, F. G. Hopkins, Oppenheim, A. A. Bevan, Bradbury, Bury, H. F. Baker; Rev. Professor Bethune-Baker, D.D.; Rev. Professor Stanton, D.D.; Rev. Dr. H. F. Stewart; Dr. J. Holland Rose; Rev. John Bevan; Lady (George) Darwin; Mr. W. E. Heitland, M.A.; Mrs. James Ward; Mrs. Ramsey, P.L.G.; Mrs. Lewis, Ph.D. (Halle), LL.D. (St. Andrews); Mrs. Gibson, Hon. D.D. (Heidelburg), Hon. LL.D. (St. Andrews); Miss E. A. McArthur, Litt.D. (Dublin); Mrs. Montagu Butler; Miss K. Jex-Blake; Mrs. Adam; Miss Jane E. Harrison, Hon. LL.D. (Aberdeen), Hon. D.Litt. (Durham); Dr. Henry Bond; Dr. E. C. Clark; Miss B. A. Clough; Dr. Leonard Doncaster; Sir H. George Fordham; Alderman Arthur Matthew; Rev. Professor Oman, A.S.; Mrs. Bidder, P.L.G.; Mrs. R. A. Read, P.L.G.; Rev. Dr. Anderson Scott; Mrs. Henry Sidgwick; Councillor George Smith; and many others.

Many members of Cambridge University accompanied their signatures to the Manifesto with warm expressions of their opinion that women should be included in the next electorate.

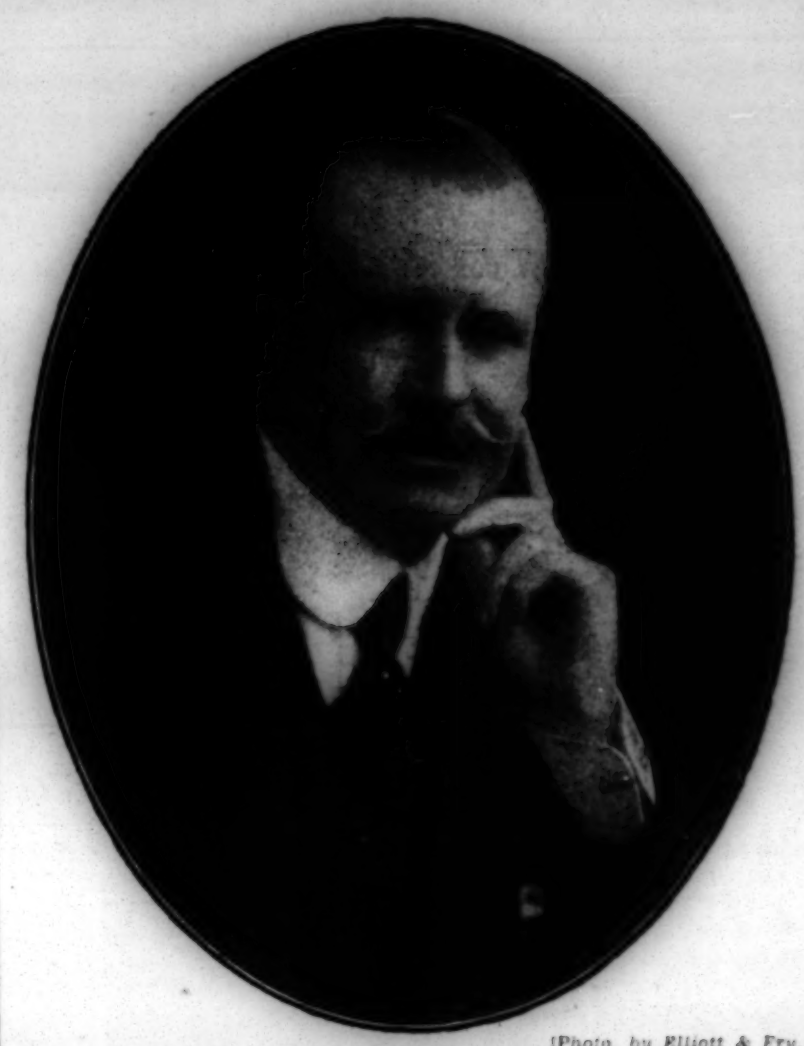
Luncheon to the Prime Minister of New Zealand and Sir Joseph Ward.

On Tuesday, January 30th, Mr. W. F. Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Mrs. Massey, and Sir Joseph and Lady Ward, were the guests of the Executive Committees of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the London Society for Women's Suffrage, at a luncheon at Prince's Restaurant. The Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., acted as hostesses, and among those present were the Countess of Selborne, Viscount Walmer, Muriel, Countess de La Warr, Winifred, Countess of Arran, Lady Acheson, Miss Barbara Villiers, Lady Emmott, Lady Cowdray, Hon. Sir J. A. Cockburn, Sir Thomas Mackenzie (High Commissioner for New Zealand), the Rt. Hon. F. D. Acland, Rt. Hon. W. H. Dickinson and Mrs. Dickinson, Lady Strachey, Lady Beilby, Mrs. Alfred Illingworth, Dr. Alice Benham, Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Mr. Faithful Begg, Miss Clough, Dr. Jane Walker, Mrs. John Boyd-Carpenter, Mrs. Heitland, Mrs. G. T. Pilcher, Mrs. Empson, and Miss Thurstan.

Mrs. Fawcett took the opportunity to send a message of thanks to the women of New Zealand, through Mr. Massey and Sir Joseph Ward. They had helped the women of Great Britain, she said, in their struggle for enfranchisement by the good use they had made of their vote, especially in the reduction of infant mortality. The message she wished conveyed to them was one of thanks for the splendid help they had given to the work of the National Union since the war. At the very beginning of hostilities the National Union had determined to devote its organisation to the service of the nation, and among other activities they had been instrumental in starting maternity centres, and in child welfare work generally. Mrs. Russell had written to the women's societies in New Zealand telling them of the work the National Union was doing, and asking for help, and the women of New Zealand had simply poured out gifts in response—huge bales of baby-clothing, as delicately made as if they were worked by ladies for their own children, and also most generous gifts of money. She asked Mr. Massey and Sir Joseph Ward to convey their most affectionate appreciation for this help.

[Photo. by Schmidt.

MR. MASSEY,
Premier of New Zealand.



[Photo. by Elliott & Fry.

SIR JOSEPH WARD.

Mr. Massey, in reply, thanked Mrs. Fawcett for her testimony to what had been done in his country in combating infant mortality, and spoke of women's share in that work. Women's Suffrage had been in operation in New Zealand for twenty-three years, and it had worked exceedingly well. He was quite certain that the people of New Zealand were pleased with Women's Suffrage. "We are perfectly satisfied with it," he said, "and would not go back on it for anything." No candidate who wished to repeal it would stand a chance of election. Predictions that Women's Suffrage would lead to division in the Home had been entirely falsified. It had been said that women would support wild legislation. They had not done so. He considered their enfranchisement had had a steadying influence. Women were staunch Imperialists, and he thought they had, on the whole, more ballast than the male voters. The women in this country, and, indeed, in the whole of the Empire, had risen to the occasion.

Lady Frances Balfour spoke with deep emotion of the willingness of the women of New Zealand to send their dear ones at the call of the Mother Country. "If," she said, "in the giving of our children to the nation's need there has been any bitterness in our hearts, it was that we were not yet enfranchised citizens of this great nation. The men and women of New Zealand are free people living under free institutions. We send a solemn message of thanks and of sympathy to those brave and generous men who have fought for the salvation of our homes, of our country, and of the people who are suffering."

Sir Joseph Ward claimed the proud distinction of having been an advocate long before the age of twenty-one of Women's Suffrage, and he was a member of the Parliament which passed the Bill into law. "I have never hesitated," he said, "to tell anyone that Women's Suffrage in New Zealand has worked well, and next time we come to this country, I believe we shall have the pleasure of shaking hands with women who are using their votes." The work of saving infant life in New Zealand was, he said, undoubtedly due to women's initiative. It had been started by women in the City of Dunedin, who set the first example. Later on it was carried out under Lady Plunkett, and taken up by the State.

Problems of Women's Labour.

The Labour Party Conference.

[*From a Correspondent.*]

The Annual Congress of the Labour Party, which met last week in Manchester, and sat for four days, was faced by an overcrowded agenda, which made an adequate discussion of many of the important questions before the delegates quite impossible. Not only have war conditions set up a great number of industrial and trade union problems which were raised by resolutions on the agenda, but in the internal affairs of the Party, questions have arisen which called for earnest and thoughtful discussion. The deep division of opinion between sections of the movement on the attitude of politically organised labour to war and to the Coalition Government was reflected in the debates, which took up a large part of the time of the Congress. Discussions on the Clyde deportations, and other matters, encroached still further upon the time which the delegates had for the careful consideration not only of resolutions on education, franchise, war pensions and allowances, food prices, after-war conditions, women's labour, and various other subjects of special interest to women as women, but also for those dealing with vast and far-reaching schemes of taxation and nationalisation of the resources of the country as a preparation for dealing with the problems of peace.

That the women's problems should occupy so unimportant a place in this Parliament of Labour was, in the circumstances, perhaps inevitable, but it was disappointing and disquieting to those who realise how difficult and how far-reaching these problems are. The substitution of the labour of women for that of men, their unorganised condition, the wickedly inadequate wages paid to them in new and old occupations, the possibility of reconstruction being attempted by a Parliament which does not represent women, the increase in the number of households which have lost their former bread-winners, the cruel effect of the rise in the cost of necessities, while pensions and allowances are still inadequate, upon the children of the workers,—all these considerations call urgently for quick and decided action, directed by knowledge and understanding. There was little evidence of grasp and comprehension of this by the delegates in that large assembly which represented the vast army of politically organised labour in the country. In such a gathering the point of view and the interests of organisations poor in power and numbers are apt to be swamped by the large strong unions.

The Position of Women after the War.

Dr. Marion Phillips moved the following resolutions in the name of the Women's Labour League in a short, cogent speech :—

"That in view of the great national services rendered by women during this time of war, and of the importance of maintaining a high level of wages for both men and women workers, this Conference urges :—

"(i) That work or maintenance at fair rates should be provided for all women displaced from their employment to make way for men returning from service with the forces or other national work.

"(ii) That full enquiry should be made into trades and processes previously held to be unhealthy or in any way unsuitable for women, but now being carried on by them, with a view to making recommendations as to their further employment in such trades.

"(iii) That all women employed in trades formerly closed to them should only continue to be so employed at such rates as will place them, from the employer's point of view, on the same economic footing as men, and that boards of employers and employed be established to decide upon these rates.

"(iv) That Trades Unions should accept women members in all trades in which they are employed.

"(v) That the number of Trade Boards be increased in order that they may establish minimum rates of pay in all trades which normally employ women at rates below a living wage."

In seconding a resolution also asking for a legal minimum wage for all workers to be established by Trade Boards, Miss Bondfield spoke finely, as she always does in putting the woman's case. Altogether less than half an hour was spent on the consideration of this great question, and the Labour Congress committed itself to a widespread adoption of Trade Boards in industry without even considering the dangers that would arise from such a policy if women still remain as unorganised as they are at present.

The Franchise.

Mr. W. C. Robinson, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved a resolution on franchise reform. The resolution declared for adult suffrage, including women; for a short qualifying period and continuous registration; for special arrangements for taking the votes of soldiers and munition workers, and for redistribution. It ended with the assertion that no election conducted on the present register, or before the proposed reforms had been made, could return a Parliament representing the nation.

The speech delivered by Mr. W. C. Robinson, in moving the franchise resolution, was largely occupied by stating the arguments for the enfranchisement of women, which have been so greatly reinforced by the experiences of war, while Dr. Marion Phillips, on behalf of the Women's Labour League, also put the women's case. The speech of Mr. W. C. Robinson, of the United Textile Workers, represented, I think, the point of view of the Congress, which was never more favourably disposed towards Women's Suffrage.

If, and when, the Report of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform comes before the House of Commons, legislative proposals are made which do not include women, the Labour Party, I think, can be relied upon effectively to oppose these proposals.

The Congress concluded on a harmonious note, and it is fervently to be hoped that before it meets again the declaration of peace will have made it possible for the delegates to meet, not under the cloud of a European war, but in a mood of energy and hope to organise their forces to face the problems of peace.

Alliance of Employers and Employed.

The Director-General of National Service, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the late Lord Mayor of Birmingham, presided, as he had promised some time ago he would preside, at a Meeting of Employers and Employed in Birmingham on Saturday, January 20th.

It was the first great meeting of a national campaign to form "A National Alliance of Employers and Employed," for the special purpose of "regulating and supervising the reinstatement in civil employment of the present forces, and the settlement in normal employment of civilian workers now in Government or controlled establishments."

But Mr. Chamberlain's speech dealt largely with the present need for finding men for the forces and munitions, for the supply of and the transport of necessaries; and he plainly indicated that if sufficient industrial volunteers were not forthcoming, they would have to be compelled. Later he spoke of the difficulties of reconstruction of labour upon demobilisation, and shadowed forth the possibility of a minimum wage for all. W. J. Davis, of the Brassworkers' Union, in an excellent and much appreciated speech, said that he trusted such an Alliance as the one now formed would make it possible not to do away with strikes, but to do without them. He demanded the fulfilment of Government promises to keep up the standard of wages, reduce hours of labour, and restore Trade Union rights after the war. The only speaker to refer even remotely to women was Mr. Hodges, who spoke of the value of welfare work, of rest and recreation, and "a free sandwich" in the middle of the long morning in increasing the output of women munition workers, and said truly that if such methods were good for women, they would be good for men. Much stress was laid upon the need for an increased number of Labour Exchanges and a reorganisation of their methods.

The meeting, which was a very large one, was disappointing in two ways; first, that so little recognition was given to women workers in the discussion of the urgency of the necessity for thorough schemes for reinstating the worker in civil employment after the war. Not one of the speakers referred to the thousands of girl workers who would find themselves suddenly thrown out of employment, unorganised, and with, in many cases, their natural male providers killed or hopelessly injured. No mention either was made of that other problem which is so gravely concerning all interested in the safety and welfare of girls—namely, how to provide that the young women brought far from their homes into strange towns, finding themselves without employment and without sufficient means to return home, shall be safely housed, put into touch with their distant relatives, and sent back without moral or physical loss.

The second thing that was disappointing about this great meeting was that only about a couple of dozen of women were present amongst the massed ranks of men. The day has not yet arrived when women realise that all Labour problems, all National problems, concern them as much as they concern men, and that it is their duty as well as their interest to gain equal knowledge and power in regard to such questions.

No doubt the possession of the vote, when it comes, will quickly deepen their sense of responsibility and public spirit, but in the meantime there is profound need for awakening in women a realisation of this responsibility.

C. R.

The Women Police Service.

So great has been the success of the women police employed by the Ministry of Munitions for duty in factories that the Women Police Service have been asked to supply several hundreds more, and arrangements are being made at the Headquarters of the Corps (St. Stephen's House, Westminster), for training three hundred women at once.

Beginning in a tentative way shortly after the war, in a purely voluntary capacity, the work of the Women Police Service has developed rapidly, and has now won official recognition. Over a hundred members have now been sworn in as constables, which means that they have the power of arresting, and are able to bring charges themselves in a court of law, instead of having to present their cases through a male member of the force—and nearly a hundred are working altogether in different parts of the country.

To begin with, the women police helped to patrol certain districts with a view to the protection of children and young women, and the maintenance of decent behaviour, and their assistance was, as a rule, greatly appreciated by the constables, with whom they soon established a good understanding. Often the mere presence of a woman in uniform was found to have a restraining influence, and in dealing with unruly girls the women were of the greatest assistance. They were also able to do useful work in taking depositions from girls and children in certain cases, and to be a great help to frightened girls in court. But while some of the more enlightened magistrates welcomed their assistance, and the police, on the whole, are glad of their co-operation, and thankful to hand over to them certain of their duties that are obviously better performed by women, there is still a considerable amount of opposition in official quarters. Some occupants of the Bench will not have a member of the Women Police in court if they can help it, particularly in the class of case in which it is most urgently necessary that a woman or girl charged, or giving evidence, should have the support of one of her own sex.

Asked by a representative of THE COMMON CAUSE whether she considered that there was any improvement in the state of the streets since the early days of the war, when so much attention was called to the question, Miss M. S. Allen, Chief Superintendent of the Women Police Service, stated that in her opinion it was worse. She agreed with Mr. Cecil Chapman in the view which he expressed a short time ago that there would never be any great improvement until there was an equal moral standard between men and women. Our system of education was at fault, and bad housing was also largely responsible for moral evils.

The work of the Women's Police Service in patrolling streets and parks is growing steadily, but it is in policing factories that the greatest progress has been made. Women police are now doing gate duty at the women's entrance of big factories, and are engaged to search the female employees for contraband. In most factories it is strictly forbidden to take in matches, and in some the greatest care has to be exercised, for instance, with regard to metal objects. No hairpins must be used, and metal buttons are not allowed. Unfortunately, it is also necessary very often to search girls for articles stolen from one another. The amount of petty theft that goes on among the girls is very large, though it has diminished since the women police came on duty, partly by the system of searching (the police-woman can stop the girls as they go out and order anyone suspected to be searched), and partly by a better arrangement of the dressing accommodation. This propensity to pilfer from one another is, perhaps, the working-girl's worst fault, and one of the biggest tasks before the "welfare" workers and others who come in daily contact with the girls, is to awaken a spirit of loyalty and good comradeship not only towards their particular "pals," but towards their fellow-workers as a whole.

The male workers in factories do not steal from one another in this way, though they are quite as bad as the women in smuggling in contraband, especially matches and spirits. But one must not jump hastily to the conclusion that men are naturally more honest than women. There have been bitter complaints from soldiers at the Front of pilfering by comrades, and the higher wages paid to the male workers in factories may be the chief factor in their higher standard of honesty. The girls' low wages expose them to all sorts of temptations, leading them not only to annex articles of clothing and adornment from one another, but to supplement their miserable earnings by immoral means. But the problem, Miss Allen considers, is by no means wholly economic. Girls who can earn quite good wages often go upon the streets because they are lazy and pleasure-loving, and will not do without excitement. They want fine clothes and jewellery, amusement and adventure, and they have no self-respect to act as a restraint. Their whole standard is wrong.

So, too, as regards sexual conduct, is the standard of many young men who have had much better educational advantages than these girls, and are in other ways far better trained and disciplined. Although public opinion has pronounced decidedly against any revival of the Contagious Diseases Act, the view is still held by a large number of men that they have a right to have vice made safe for them. It is no uncommon thing, Miss Allen stated, for a man to demand a certificate from a woman stating that she is free from disease, and, unfortunately, doctors—or pretended doctors—are to be found who will lend themselves to this practice. Such certificates are, of course, useless from the point of view of protecting men from contagion; and they do great harm by encouraging them in the idea that they can indulge with impunity.

In the fight against prostitution, the Women's Police Service is doing excellent work, but at present it can only act on a very small scale, and however greatly their task is enlarged in the future, it must be supplemented by other agencies—housing reform, temperance, and moral education of all classes and both sexes.

M. M.

THE PIONEER PLAYERS.

The performance of "The Cleansing Stain," the play by the great Spanish dramatist, Jose Echegaray, with which the Pioneer Players are opening their sixth season, will take place on Sunday, February 4th, at 3 p.m., at the Queen's Theatre (by kind permission of Mr. Frederick Whelen and Messrs. Grossmith and Laurillard). The cast includes Miss Mona Limerick, Miss Hilda Moore, Mrs. Raleigh, Mr. George Skillan, Mr. Erik Stirling, and Mr. Basil Sydney. Miss Moore plays Mathilde, the part created by Maria Guerrero when the play was originally produced in Madrid, and Miss Limerick, Enriqueta, a character which is well summed up in the Spanish proverb, "The face of an angel and the claws of a cat." Before the curtain rises Mr. William Archer will give a short address on Echegaray, and the Spanish Ambassador, who has shown a warm interest in the Pioneers' excursion into Spanish drama, has promised to be present. To avoid misunderstanding, it should be stated that this performance is not open to the public. Those who wish to be present should apply for terms of membership to the Hon. Secretary, Pioneer Players, 31, Bedford Street, Strand.

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A Feminist in the Reign of Queen Anne.*

When Dr. Samuel Johnson expressed his warm approval of the system of "female education," on which his friend Mrs. Thrale had been more or less brought up, he evidently considered that for young ladies, Madam Salusbury's training was a sufficient preparation for life. At Salusbury Court, evidently a spacious country house, it was the custom to receive daughters of neighbouring gentlefolk for a course of instruction in the arts befitting their station. The girls, who appear to have been from twelve to fifteen years of age, seem to have been taken into the household to fill a position that may be compared to that of a page in a mediæval castle. The page was given up by his parents to be trained to become a squire, and, in course of time, a knight. The seventeenth-century young lady, as part of Madam Salusbury's court, learned pickling, preserving, tambour and other needlework, the traditions of household management, and good manners. At fifteen, or so, she probably married, and under the roof of her mother-in-law, continued to make herself useful, and to carry her education a stage further, till she had a home of her own. The model woman of this system, if not much respected, was, and is still, widely approved. Witness the testimony of Dr. Primrose. For pickles and preserves Mrs. Primrose had not her equal, and as for breeding, few country ladies could show as much. Is it time that has lent a tinge of gentle irony to Dr. Primrose's praise of his wife? Dissatisfaction with her, we may be sure, there was not. Good food, pleasant manners, enough piety to guarantee good behaviour—the eighteenth-century asked no less and strongly objected to more.

In the times regarded by Dr. Johnson as the good old-fashioned days, lived Mary Astell, author of *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies for the Advancement of their True and Greatest Interest*—that revolutionary work on the education of women. It is not known how Mary Astell was herself educated. Most of the myths that have circulated about her name in biographical dictionaries are discredited or disproved by Miss Florence Smith after much patient research. Mary Astell was neither wealthy nor well-connected; but it is plain that she was a widely-read woman, and that she interested and attracted other women, for among her friends she counted some of the most illustrious ladies of her time, and her friendships ended only with her death. Schools for girls were few in number, and the usual subjects taught in them were dancing, music, writing, and keeping accounts. Mary Astell seems to have been chiefly impressed, not so much by the scantiness as by the frivolous type of education offered, by the lack of "serious" studies, and above all of religious earnestness. "Women," she complained, "are, from their very Infancy, debarred those advantages with the want of which they are afterwards reproached, and nursed up in those vices which will hereafter be upbraided to them. So partial are Men to expect Bricks when they afford no straw." It was the lack of education, it was clear to her, which left women at the mercy of an untrained judgment, and led to unhappy and disastrous marriages. Painful circumstances in a friend's life (she was a neighbour of the unhappy Duchesse de Mazarin) had made so deep an impression on Mary Astell that she determined to do all in her power to prevent other women from accepting marriage as their only career; education and wider interests in life should safeguard ladies from treating marriage as a means of livelihood. Her project, put forth anonymously in 1694, was nothing less than a College of Women.

The College was to fulfil two ends. It was, in the first place, "to give opportunities of education to daughters of large families, where dowries are limited, and to provide for the daughters of decayed gentlewomen by giving them an opportunity to secure a living by teaching there. Lodging, diet, and habits were all to be as plain as possible; the "simple life" for all the inmates; but the higher education was to be in the hands of ladies of noble families; for although women of less social position should have charge of subordinate matters, the college was still to be an aristocratic institution.

Perhaps if Mary Astell had confined her ambitions to founding a good "she-schoole" (to use Fuller's expression) for girls of good family, she might have carried it out. The frivolity and superficiality of "the sex" became a stock subject for the *Tatler* and *Spectator*. A fashion might have been set of giving young gentlewomen some Latin, French, or Spanish, as well as the "usual subjects." But Mary Astell's girls' school was to be something more. It was an institution with far-reaching sociological aims. Besides providing a refuge and a livelihood for the daughters of decayed gentlewomen, her college was to be a sanctuary for heiresses in fear of importunate fortune-hunters. Older women, interested in what we now call "social work," would join the community. In fact, the *Serious Proposal* combined a girls' school, a teachers' training college, a sisterhood, a retreat, a "Religious Retirement," as she calls it, where the simple life will conduce to study and contemplation. It was something between a St. Cyr and a university settlement. The "Religious Retirement," it is to be feared, would have settled the business, even if Mary Astell had not herself spoken of her scheme as a "monastery," outright. In those days of "No Popery!" how was it possible to carry out so subversive a scheme with such an obvious likeness to a nunnery?

In vain Mary Astell pleaded in 1705 that her foundation was not monastic but academic, and tried to meet objections in an appeal to Queen Anne.

"Among that which they seem most afraid of," she wrote, "is dispeopling the world and driving Folks into Monasteries, tho' I see none among us for them to run into were they ever so much inclined—but have heard it generally complained of by very good Protestants that monasteries were abolished instead of being reformed. And tho' none that I know of plead for Monasteries, strictly so-called in England, *or for anything but a reasonable provision of the education of one-half of Mankind*, and for a safe retreat so long and no longer than our circumstances make it requisite. . . . May we not hope that she [The Queen] will not do less for Her own sex than she has already done for the other" (alluding to Queen Anne's Bounty). "If she overlooks us, we have no further prospect."

Rumour says that Queen Anne was about to subscribe £10,000 to this women's college when a bishop intervened; and a letter from Elizabeth Elstob proves sufficiently that it was Bishop Burnet who "prevented that good Design." Queen Anne did nothing, and the prospect of a college for women was deferred for a hundred and fifty years.

Probably the excellent but worldly bishop foresaw the ridicule that would be poured on the project; "the satirists of the day," says Miss Florence Smith, "like the wits of all ages, find the progressive woman a source of laughter." Mary Astell had published her *Proposal* anonymously for that very reason—she knew, she said, she was writing on a delicate subject in a censorious age. But, unluckily for her, she also published a pamphlet reflecting upon Swift, who took his revenge in a scurrilous and indecent attack upon her and her scheme in the *Tatler*. Mrs. Centlivre also diverted the town with a caricature of a learned lady who wished to found a college for women. The talk died down, but Mary Astell wrote no more pamphlets, and turned her attention to elementary education for girls.

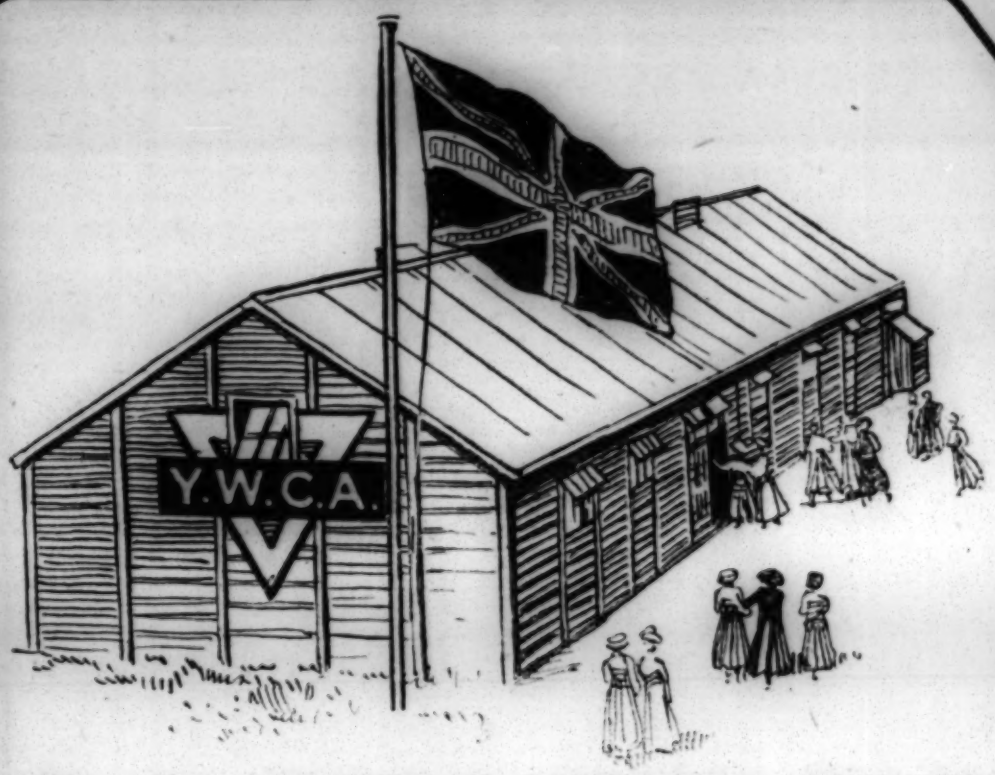
The next plan was more successful. In the last few years of her life, she succeeded in founding a charity school for girls in Chelsea; a group of her intimate friends, among them Lady Elizabeth Hastings, helping to endow it with a fund, which is still in existence and still applied to girls' education.

Miss Florence Smith in a later chapter traces the influence of Mary Astell upon other writers, showing very plainly that the candle she lit was not extinguished. Daniel Defoe, no less, took up her theme in 1697, and asked "what women had done to forfeit the privilege of being taught?" Others—John Evelyn among them—were ready to see in her "monastery" a solution of the problem how to give to unmarried women a social status by combining social service with self-support. And because Mary Astell's problems are still with us, still unsolved and crying for solution, this piece of scholarly research will have a vivid interest for all Suffragists. On us, too, weighs the painful burden which wrung from the heart of the noble seventeenth-century pioneer the cry that goes up to-day: "The sphere allotted to us women, who are subjects, allows us no room to serve our country either with our Counsel or our Lives!"

* *Mary Astell*, by Florence M. Smith, Ph.D. (Oxford University Press. 6s. 6d. net.)

WOMEN CARPENTERS START FOR FRANCE.

The first batch of women-carpenters has started for France, says the *Star*, and others are to follow shortly. During the three months of their training they have become proficient in practically all kinds of general carpentry. In fact, it is said by their instructor at the Byfleet Works that they can now do the whole of the work of hut construction except the joinery; and after three or four months it is hoped they will be able to do that as well. "Their work is really first-rate," added their instructor. "I am particularly proud of a large recreation hut they have just erected entirely by themselves at the St. George's Hill Military Hospital." Out in France the women will live in a little camp near one of the bases. They will be under the care of a lady superintendent, and their own forewoman will be in charge of the work.



WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS' BRAVERY.

"An official communication from the Ministry of Munitions states that any fear that the effect of the recent explosion near London would deter women from recruiting the munition factories may now be set at rest. **The women, in common with the men in the nation, recognize the urgent necessity for a maximum output of munitions, and no risks attending such work will deter them from their purpose. Even the women workers saved from the recent disaster have already accepted employment in the danger zones of another factory.**

—*The Times*, Jan. 29th.

Will you help to give these women & girls necessary comforts?

We are pleased to announce that the whole of the £500, for which we asked, has now been generously subscribed by readers of "The Common Cause," and the

"COMMON CAUSE" HUT

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A further £200 is urgently needed

for equipping the canteen, providing tables, chairs, urns, crockery, etc. WILL YOU HELP?

Please send cheques, postal orders, etc., to the Editor of "The Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

This "named" hut will be run under the auspices of the Young Woman's Christian Association, and besides being a perpetual reminder to the women and girl workers of our love and sympathy for them, it will incidentally give publicity to the great cause which our journal represents.

To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
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To secure support for administrative measures in the interests of women and children, and to educate public opinion concerning women's work in Local Government.

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Speakers to be announced later.

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Palliatives.

A great deal of anxiety is expressed, one way or another, in these days, as to the effects on the body social of new employments for women. The anxiety which is openly expressed is chiefly for their effects upon women's health; another kind also finds its way into public utterances; it is for the effect upon wages—mostly upon men's wages. People who suffer considerably from the second cause of uneasiness are apt to be vocal about the first. Mysterious hints are thrown out about the awful results of work upon the feminine physique; the appalling discoveries which we are going to make by and by. A "sickly womanhood" is to be the outcome of it all, with reference, obscure but alarming, to motherhood.

We may say at once that from some points of view, and within certain limits, there is grave cause for anxiety. To begin with, the women engaged in making high explosives, even after all precautions are taken, are running great risks to life and health. A certain proportion of such women and girls are certainly mortgaging their futures; and their claims upon the nation should be fully acknowledged, and as adequately as possible. No one, however, so far, has arisen to ask that they should now be excluded from unhealthy and dangerous work. The dismal prophecies are frequently made by persons whose desire to drive women out of industry is to be inoperative until the end of the war.

There are good grounds, too, for anxiety for the health of women employed on ammunition work under such conditions as Miss Mary Macarthur describes as prevailing at Southampton, where women are being paid seven shillings weekly, and cannot get their discharge. But the anxiety could be allayed at once by the sufficient remedy of paying them decent wages. For this is the real crux of the matter. The greatest danger to women-workers is not so much from strenuous toil, which is not unknown even in "the home," but from the meagre wage, which compels them to do a double day's work in the twenty-four hours, because (unlike their brothers) they cannot pay a woman to keep house for them; insufficient food is probably the cause of the alleged "inferior physique" of thousands of women. Half-fed from girlhood, they are not always able to bear the strain of man's work plus a woman's work.

In various indirect ways it is being recognised that women-workers are, in fact, under-paid. This recognition takes the form of supplying "safeguards"—crèches, hostels, medical and other centres, and "welfare workers" among them. All of these sociological makeshifts and expedients for dealing with an unprecedented state of things are of value, sometimes of the greatest value, during the transitional stages of rapidly transformed industries. All of them contain elements of hopeful augury, new standards, new ideas, and new wants. But they are only palliatives of intolerable conditions.

Government grants, public subscriptions and private charity, must be called upon to make the munition workers' existence possible. Which is to say, that a great deal must be done for them, if their work is to be carried on, which they, owing to their poverty, cannot do—it is done *for* them, and not *by* them. And as their employers (apparently) cannot afford to pay a wage which covers such expenses, subsidies are raised and spent for those who are working below cost price. Such things have been known before, though not, perhaps, on so large a scale.

In Westmorland, for instance, after the Napoleonic wars, the economic condition of the farm labourers was found to be intolerable. The low wages paid to them in the previous century continued on the same level after the great rise in the price of necessaries consequent upon the war. Clearly something had to be done. The most obvious remedy was a rise of wages; the obvious difficulty, that the farmers did not want to pay

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higher wages. The men could not very well help themselves. They wanted work within reach of their homes, and there were only too many men wanting work. So a palliative was found. It was decided to give out-door relief to labourers whose families could not be fed on their earnings. No doubt the parish relief was meant to be temporary, but the children could not be allowed to starve, and so the parish paid a supplement of a few shillings. For a while the system prospered. The hardy dalesmen were enabled to eke out a subsistence, and the farmers' wage-bill was kept down; indeed, wages fell lower still. It was not for some time that people realised what was happening; but at last they discovered that it was the farmers who were receiving relief, and the wages were being paid out of the rates.

The same tendencies are appearing now. Low wages are customarily paid to women, and the crèche, the hostel, and meals at cost price are palliatives—subsidies not in money but in kind. It is curious how deeply rooted is the idea that money is bad for women; an incredible amount of prejudice is felt against paying them what they earn in full. Extraordinary reasons are put forward in the Press for underpaying women and girls. Quite lately an employer of women substitutes solemnly argued that if they were paid at the same rate as the men they replaced, they would only spend the money foolishly. An awful example was given. One girl clerk, getting an unaccustomed rise of salary, squandered her gains on a luncheon of "soup and a sixpenny ice"! A man, in like circumstance, would, perhaps, have ordered a nutritive whisky and soda. Tastes differ, but the excellent habit of eating wholesome food when you have the money to pay for it is soon acquired. Other moralists argue that the women spend their salaries on furs and good clothes, and set an example of national extravagance, and, therefore, they should be paid on a lower scale. It is difficult to see why a new standard should be introduced, for women only, of compulsory thrift. More money is wasted, after all, on spirits than on winter clothes; but salaries are not cut down to teach wisdom nor to enforce sobriety and civic virtue.

There are some things which can only be learned through the wholesome discipline of spending, and personal experience is worth any amount of wisdom and foresight expended by other people for the recipients' benefit. Some day the woman wage-earner will find out that it is infinitely better to receive the whole of her wages, instead of having a part of them paid indirectly and laid out for her by others; and when that day comes, it will mean an end of palliatives. If, and when, she discovers this, the welfare workers will truly have cause to rejoice; for "it is the final value of the welfare worker that she may be able to help women to the control of their own conditions and interests."

Women Slackers?

It seems at last to be an established fact that women are not to be included for the present in the New Civilian Service scheme.

Perhaps it is partly the strange position of women in this country at the present time which has prevented those in authority from making more explicit proposals with regard to them. Perhaps it is a little difficult to demand State service from people who are not recognised as citizens at all. Yet the immense loss to the country which is involved in the present chaotic state of women's employment can be realised by anyone who makes even the most casual enquiries into the existing conditions of the labour market for women. The Labour Exchanges during the war have proved quite inadequate to deal with the tremendous changes which have taken place in the whole sphere of women's industry. One result is that there are still an immense number of women who are unable to find employment. A correspondence in *The Daily Mail* brought to light the following examples among others only a week or two ago; and it is probable that they are typical of thousands. One woman says:—"My sister, three friends, and I offered our services and received our cards from the W.A.S.C. three years ago. We were only too anxious to find any kind of clerical work. We have filled in various forms at four different Labour Exchanges, but up to the present have never yet heard of one vacant post."

Another woman of thirty, with valuable experience, writes:—"I am most anxious to obtain employment, and have tried every way I can think of, without success. . . ."

The Futility of the Labour Exchange.

The difficulty of finding work through the Labour Exchanges seems to be very generally felt. One woman describes the common experience of those who, "notwithstanding the appeals for women workers of any class or age," are told, after filling in a form, that there is no paid work to suit their needs. Another writes, as probably many feel, that she is willing to work, but adds: "I will *not* go to a Labour Bureau again."

There must be countless cases of this kind up and down the country: the books of every Labour Exchange in England probably contain the names of women seeking and most earnestly desiring work. And yet we hear on one hand a great deal of talk about women slackers, and on the other of a still increasing demand for workers. Nobody denies that there are plenty of jobs now open to women; nobody who knows anything about it denies that there are plenty of women looking for jobs. And yet the women remain unemployed, and the work remains undone. How is this state of things to be altered?

An Example in Organisation.

Women's Service, organised by the London Society for Women's Suffrage, has found, on a small scale, the solution of this problem. They have realised the immense value of personal selection. Instead of the impersonal methods of the Labour Exchange—the filling in of forms and the registering of names—every applicant for work is interviewed by some responsible member of the staff, and employers are beginning to know that if they ask Women's Service to supply workers, there is a strong probability that they will get the right workers for the job. In the past year over 22,000 cases have been dealt with by Women's Service, and the personal applications which they receive now average about a hundred a day. The secret of their success has lain chiefly in the fact that they really select the workers they recommend, and that their choice is based upon personal knowledge. But there is another important point: they have made it their business to know a good deal, not only about the workers who apply to them for jobs, but also about the exact needs of employers and the conditions of the work that they offer. They have looked ahead and have seen where a new need for women workers was likely to arise; and in order to meet that need they have organised a Training Department, and have formed training centres in connection with it. Every woman who applies for work is told what are the present possibilities of employment, what training is required for any particular job, and how much it costs, and what wages she may expect to get when trained.

Problems of Demobilisation.

A few days ago Mr. Hodge made, in an interview, some very interesting statements about his plans for the future working of the Labour Exchanges, particularly during the process of demobilisation. He said that a much wider use should be made of Advisory Committees in connection with the Exchanges, and that the managers of Exchanges should make themselves to some extent labour experts. But he made no reference at all to the part which women are taking to-day in the world of labour, nor to the special and urgent needs of the moment with regard to the employment of women. If great loss to the country, as well as great suffering among thousands of women, is to be avoided, these needs must be met. The problem of demobilisation is not a problem which will touch men only; already there are nearly a million women munition workers, apart from all other occupations. If separation allowances cease and great numbers of women are at the same time thrown out of employment, the results—and especially the results to the children of this country—will be very serious. If we find dislocation and lack of organisation in the industrial conditions of women to-day, what shall we find when war industries cease and the process of demobilisation begins, unless some steps are taken to prepare for this state of things?

Among the steps which might be taken, a few are obvious; the establishment of more Labour Exchanges, and, above all, of an adequate staff for each Exchange, with an experienced and well-educated manager at the head of each department; the collection of information as to *future* demands for labour in various occupations and different districts, and the preparation of training schemes to meet these demands; the setting-up of fair wage rates for women's work, and especially for all branches of Government service. All these things might be done, and they would do much to ease the strain of industrial conditions after the war. But probably not one of them will be done—unless the first great step of all—the political enfranchisement of women—is taken without delay.—E. B.

How the Women's Vote is Organised in the Equal Suffrage States of the U.S.A.

In an article in *The New Housewife* (New York), Mrs. Mabel Potter Daggett gives an account of the way in which the women's vote has been organised in the States where they are enfranchised, and of what their vote has accomplished. This article is of special interest to British women at the present time, when they are hoping to be organising their own votes before very long.

"In the Suffrage States," writes Mrs. Daggett, "no political party to-day ventures to lay a platform plank without first enquiring nervously, 'Now, how do you think the women are going to feel about this?' The club women in Chicago have told me that since they got the vote there, they're receiving the nicest letters from the politicians. It's only such a little while ago in Chicago that it wasn't that way. To get a politician to do what you, a club woman, wanted, it used to be that you had to call on him a great many times, until finally he got tired of disappearing by the back door, and thought he might as well let you in, and finally promised vaguely to 'see about' what you wanted. Well, nowadays a Chicago politician doesn't take any chances of being pursued by the ladies. He's so afraid he won't be, that just as soon as he's nominated for an office, he gets out his best stationery and writes the Woman's Party or the Chicago Women's Club: 'Dear Ladies: What can I do to serve?' And he signs himself, 'Yours to command.'"

In California a conference of all the women's organisations is called once or twice a year. This is known as the Central Legislative Council, and decides upon the measures that the women want made into laws.

"Every candidate for election to the Legislature in California will have to tell how he stands on these questions. The women have some thirty 'civic centres,' one in every city in the State where he can make his confession of faith and pledge his support. Then if he gets his chance to make good, when he takes his seat at Sacramento, those measures to which he has subscribed will face him and every other member of the new legislative body in a neat little printed card that lies on the desk before him: 'Legislative Platform of the California Confederation of Women's Clubs.' The first year after California women got the vote, there were sixteen bills listed beneath this caption. Twelve of them became laws under the careful guidance of Marion Swan, who sat at the Capitol as Chairman of the Watch Committee throughout the session. I think the law that she was most pleased about was the one giving to mothers equal guardianship with fathers over their children. California women had before asked in vain for this law. Now it was literally handed them without a dissenting vote from any member of Senate or House."

The method in Washington is rather different. There the measures that women want are formulated by a Women's Legislative Committee, to which each county in the State sends three delegates.

"In the State of Washington it is the Washington Women's Legislative Committee, organised by Miss Adele M. Field, formerly a missionary to China, that formulates the measures that women want. Each county in the State sends three delegates. The meetings are held in Seattle, where in some woman's beautiful bungalow home on First Hill or Federal Avenue originate many of the bills that later reach the statute books by way of the State Capitol. Candidates for election have to pass the inspection of the Washington Non-Partisan League, organised by Mrs. Sophie L. W. Clark. Those who are 'all right,' from each party, get their names printed on the little list that every woman who votes in Washington carries in her handbag on Election Day. The Denver Legislative Committee in Colorado, the Kansas Good Citizenship League, the Woman's Party of Cook Co., in Chicago, are all of them similar women's political groups."

Women's Help in State Economy.

These various organisations have been formed because the women voters have found that there are many public measures that need to be promoted by women.

"You know the kind of housekeeping that a man does when left to his own devices? Well, that's the way they did their State keeping. Poor dears, they have long needed help at every State House, just as much as at any other house. For instance, only a housewife knows how to be really economical. It was the Woman's Party in Chicago, under the leadership of Charlotte C. Rhodus, that showed the city of Chicago how to buy a garbage reduction plant at the right figure—a cool $325,000 less than they were getting ready to pay! In the Colorado Legislature they were discussing one day an appropriation for the public institutions. There was only one person present who knew what it would cost *per capita* to feed the inmates: 'Thirty-five cents a day, gentlemen, is what I can feed my family on,' said Senator Robinson, 'and that doubtless is the figure on which your wives, if they are good managers, are feeding you.' It seems more than a coincidence that in Washington, a State where women vote, there is not one penny of bonded indebtedness. Kansas, a State where women vote, paid its last dollar of indebtedness on January 1st, 1916. Wyoming, the oldest Suffrage State, where women have been voting for three generations, is not only out of debt, but has so much money in the treasury that it is contemplating abolishing all State taxes and meeting State expenses from the oil and mining royalties on State lands."

Promoting Cleaner Living.

But there are other reasons, Mrs. Potter Daggett explains, why the women need to organise:—

"There is one point of view that the man who votes seldom sees without her guidance. . . . The first law ever made by a woman was the bill introduced in the Colorado Legislature by Mrs. Carrie Clyde Holly raising the age of consent in that State to eighteen years, and under certain circumstances to twenty-one years."

One of the most notable of the many examples that can be given of the direct influence of women in politics occurred in Colorado, where politicians were proposing to reopen the "red-light" district in Denver, and had brought forward a bill providing for a "segregated area."

"So you see why the Denver politicians proposing to reopen their red-light district were a little uneasy about the outcome. They wanted to pass a bill providing for a 'segregated district.' They were feeling really sanguine when they had 'seen' thirty-six members of the House. There was one member they made no attempt to 'see.' Indeed, they went the other way whenever they saw her coming. But they reassured each other: 'She'll be absent from her seat the day the bill comes up. A woman, of course, wouldn't wish to be present.'

"Wouldn't she? She wouldn't be Agnes Riddle then. And the Colorado Legislature knows Agnes Riddle better now. She is a busy woman. She has reared six children on her ranch a few miles across the prairies out of Denver. She has some 350 chickens. She showed me on the shelves in her cellar 700 quart cans of fruit that she herself had 'done up' the same year that she put some nine laws through the State Legislature. It isn't Agnes Riddle's way not to be around where there is work to be done. . . . On that day, when the promoter of the Byles bill had made his neat little speech, over there in the seat they had counted on having vacant, Mrs. Riddle rose. As she slowly rolled the sleeves of her black silk waist and squared her elbows, the perspiration of nervous dread came out on the face of the leader of the Republican majority: Mrs. Riddle of his own party was breaking loose again!

"She was. In her own words, as she told me about it afterwards, she 'let them have it.' And what she said was 'a-plenty.' 'You, gentlemen, aren't going at this matter right,' she told them. 'Why shut the gates of hell on the women of a red-light district, and leave the men who put them there free to roam around in respectable society? But I myself will vote for your bill if you'll amend it to include also a segregated district for fallen men. Only how many of you would be left here in your seats in the State House?'

"You could have heard a pin drop when the lady shot that last bolt. 'Now,' she said finally, 'I defy any of you who is without sin to cast the first vote against these poor fallen women!' They took the ballot on the Byles bill. Only one vote, that of the man who introduced it, was recorded in favour of the bill. In the awkward silence of a sudden adjournment, one man after another, as they filed out, whispered to his neighbour, 'She killed it! She killed it!'"

But, far from feeling any grudge against Mrs. Riddle for the slaughter of this abominable bill, her comrades in the Legislature appear to have been grateful to her for bringing home to them the cowardliness of what it was proposed to do. The woman's point of view had not occurred to them. Once it was brought home, many among them were heartily ashamed of their blindness.

"Next day on Agnes Riddle's desk were heaped up fifty boxes of candy and a whole bush, forty-five blossoms, of American beauty roses with the 'compliments of her admiring colleagues.' After all, the woman who votes can always count on the chivalry of the American men."

Laywomen in the Church of England.

It is a truism to remark that the relations between Church and State are not what they were at the time of the Reformation Settlement, but it is not always clearly grasped how this alteration affects the laity. By laity is meant, of course, both men and women who are—despite individual assertions and cases to the contrary—equal in their calling and privileges as members of the Church. The modern habit, which, fortunately, appears to be on the wane, of talking of the "layman" and the "woman," is misleading. It is sometimes to be found heading lists of names in missionary magazines.

The whole question of the "Establishment" in this country is somewhat complicated, and it is not at all my purpose to enter into the merits, or demerits, of the Church being a State Church or otherwise; but as the subject affects women just as vitally as men, they ought not, and cannot be, ignored when any proposal to adjust the position of Church and State is brought forward.

Before going further it will be useful to consider the position of Church and State as it is now, and as it was at the time of the Reformation. At that crisis, the Church in this country definitely acknowledged the Royal Supremacy as a means of protection against the claims of a foreign pontiff. It was considered, in the state of society which prevailed at that period, that the duty of the Crown was to protect the Church. The point worth noticing is that there was no restriction of sex; King or Queen was looked upon as the representative of the laity, for the only religion recognised was that of the Church of England, and Parliament, therefore, was composed entirely of Church members. Besides this, each parish had a vestry, which had much to do with social matters, and on those vestries men and women acted on perfectly equal terms.

The great change occurred at the time of the Revolution of 1688, when, after the coming of the Prince of Orange, the Toleration Act was passed, allowing forms of religion, other than the Church of England, to be protected in this country, and throwing open Parliament to men of any, or no, religious persuasion. The absolute monarchy gave way to constitutional sovereignty, which meant, among other things, that the Royal Supremacy as regards the Church devolved largely on Parliament. Mainly from political reasons, connected with the Jacobite risings, Convocation was suppressed in the reign of George I., and did not meet for 135 years, when it was revived in the middle of last century on its old lines.

The position, at present, is that the Church of England is being conditioned by a body which can no longer be considered as a lay assembly of the Church, as it was in the past, while the old powers of the vestries have passed into other bodies, such as the Urban and Rural District Councils, and the administrators of the Poor Law.

Two years ago, in order to meet this altered state of affairs, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York appointed a committee composed of Churchmen, representing all shades of opinion in the English Church (and many of whom sat in Parliament), whose duty was to "enquire what changes are advisable in order to secure in the relations of Church and State a fuller expression of the spiritual independence of the Church as well as the natural recognition of religion." This Report was issued in the autumn of 1916, and contains, besides its recommendations, an amount of valuable information. Strangely enough, the old vestries do not receive much attention; but, presumably in their stead, it is proposed to have Parochial Church Councils for each parish, or group of parishes. Women may elect to these councils and also serve upon them, but there, for the present, their opportunities for service on Church Councils is to end. Even this minimum was strongly opposed when discussed by the members of the existing house of laymen, who either were ignorant of, or wished to ignore, the equal status of women with themselves in the past, as exemplified by the vestry meeting.

The Report, above-mentioned, recommends the institution of an ecclesiastical council, composed of Bishops, Clergy, and Laity, which will be the means of self-government for the Church in her own sphere, subject to the veto of the State. What the ultimate result of the proposal will be, when it is brought before Parliament, is difficult to say. It is possible in the future that, in the age of equality into which we are entering, all religious bodies will be equal as regards their relationship to the State, but whether or no this should happen, it is clear that neither the "mind of the Church" nor the "mind of the State" is complete until women are free to contribute their share equally with their fellow-churchmen and fellow-citizens.

E. ANNE GILCHRIST.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D
Hon. Secretaries: Miss Evelyn Atkinson. Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary)
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary: Miss Helen Wright.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

The Public Meeting arranged by the National Union as a Demonstration of Women Workers will be held at Queen's Hall on February 20th, at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Fawcett will take the Chair, and the Speakers will be announced later. The tickets are price 10s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. Tickets can be obtained by delegates to the Council at half-price, and there will be a special reduction on any party taking more than four tickets. As this will be one of the most important political demonstrations which the National Union has ever held, we urge all Suffragists to make an effort to be present.

Literature Department.

Readers may not, perhaps, be aware that the Literature Department is able to supply any of the numerous publications advertised in The Common Cause, and books on any Social question or aspect of the Women's Movement. Among those now in stock are :—

Towards Racial Health. By Nora March. (Price 3s. 6d.)
Downward Paths. With Foreword by Maude Royden. (Price 2s. 6d.)
Women of the Empire in War Time. (Price 1s. 6d.)
Women's War Work. (Price 1s.)
Law and the Woman. By Judge Parry. (Price 1s. 3d.)
The White Road to Verdun. By Kathleen Burke. (Price 1s. 3d.)
Conflicting Ideals of Women's Work. By B. L. Hutchins. (Price 1s.)

Of this last, Mr. Sidney Webb says :—"Every woman who works ought to read Miss Hutchins' book, because it expresses a view of women's employment and its influence which is fresh and thought-provoking."

The Literature Department will be pleased to send any of the above by return of post (postage 4d.).

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916	744	14	1
Received from January 22nd to 27th, 1917 :—			
Subscriptions.			
Mrs. Allan Bright	1	1	0
Miss S. E. S. Mair	2	2	0
Miss V. Anderson		1	0
Miss A. M. Allen		10	0
Madame Loppé	2	0	0
Mrs. Napier Sturt	10	10	0
Dr. J. W. Browne	1	1	0
Miss Olive M. Ashe		1	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Ascot W.S.S.	1	8	3
Chinley and Chapel en le Frith W.S.S.		15	0
Seaforth W.S.S.		12	6
Inverness W.S.S.		12	6
Irish W.S. and Local Government Association Associated Society		10	0
Crowthorne W.S.S.		11	3
Tiverton W.S.S.		6	9
Hitchin, Stevenage, and District W.S.S.	2	1	3
Plymouth and District W.S.S.	1	4	9
Birmingham W.S.S.	9	0	0
Fleet W.S.S.		5	0
Rotherfield and Mark Cross W.S.S.		5	0
Huddersfield W.S.S.	2	19	0
N. Berks W.S.S.	1	5	0
Berkhampsted W.S.S.		7	0
Paris W.S.S.		5	0
Barnes, Mortlake, and East Sheen W.S.S.		14	0
Glenfarg W.S.S.		8	0
Congleton W.S.S.	1	5	0
General Service Fund Donations.			
Miss G. F. Larner	1	1	0
East Herts W.S.S. Jumble Sale, (7s. 6d.)		17	0
Carnforth W.S.S. Jumble Sale	10	0	0
Miss Jessie Clarke	1	1	0
Received for the Scottish Women's Hospitals	12	2	0
	£811	16	4

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

Postal Orders should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

Treasury Notes should be treated like coins, and *always* registered.

If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the Secretary, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Whittaker, the late President of the Accrington Suffrage Society. For twenty years she has been a keen advocate of the Suffrage, and had great influence among the working women. She was one of the sixteen working women who presented the famous Suffrage Petition, signed by 67,000 people, to the House of Commons in 1900.

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The "Common Cause" Hut.

"The Welfare of our Country."

This week we have the great pleasure of announcing that our readers' Hut Fund has reached the total of £567 15s., enough to secure the building for Coventry, and to supply part of the furniture, which will be welcomed for the equipment of the rest-room and buffet. To all those who are subscribing, we want to express our warmest thanks, though we know that the thought of some other woman's increased efficiency for national service will be their reward. We wish it were possible to quote from all the kind letters and the good wishes received, or to attempt to acknowledge the goodness of those who have so many claims upon them, yet have managed to spare something for yet one service more. But from one deeply touching anonymous letter, accompanying a great and generous gift, we cannot forbear taking a few words :—

"I wrote to you last week, saying that it would give me great pleasure to give a donation of fifty pounds towards The Common Cause Hut, to be used for the comfort of women and girl workers. Anything that makes for the uplift, health, and happiness of women, appeals to me greatly, as I feel that the welfare of our Country lies so much in their influence and work.

"The money I am sending you is the savings of ten years, and if it did not mean some sacrifice, I should think it an unworthy gift.

"When this last War Loan was asked for from the nation, I at first thought I would *lend* it to my Country, but on second thoughts I decided to *give* it, thinking it would accomplish a more certain and speedy result for good. . . . With all good wishes for the success of your enterprise for the splendid work being carried on by the N.U.W.S.S., I am, &c."

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations :—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	505	2	6
Miss Evors		2	6
Miss E. M. Lancaster	1	0	0
Miss L. Mitchell	1	0	0
E. C. B., St. Albans		10	0
Anonymous	50	0	0
Miss F. A. Cobbold		5	0
L. G. P.		2	6
Miss E. S. Sinclair		4	0
Miss Juliet Reckitt	5	5	0
Dr. I. W. Browne	1	1	0
Miss Cornforth		2	6
Miss J. Drew	1	0	0
Miss V. Maxwell	1	0	0
Miss F. M. Harvey	1	0	0
	£567	15	0

Reviews.

It is the "little realised" history of women clergy in the early days of Christianity that Miss M. A. R. Tuker invokes, in a noteworthy article in the *Nineteenth Century and After* for December, 1916, to shed light on the recent controversy regarding the part to be played by women in the National Mission. She shows that in the primitive Church those in possession of *ordo* (orders) included the *vidua* (widow); that such women-elders both exercised presidentship and sat on the bench of presbyters; that diaconal ordination for women was precisely the same as for men. The curious fact emerges that of a series of the earliest Christian and Gentile references to clergy "all are to women." We have the inscription to Flavia Arcas, *vidua*; Pliny's letter to Trajan mentioning two women ministers; the coupling of Grapte's name with that of Clement, the bishop in "The Shepherd of Hermas"; the fact that St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans was sent by the hand of a woman deacon. For to translate "'servant' here and 'deacon' in Phil. i. and 1. Tim. iii. does not alter the status of Phœbe. Women were prophets, teachers, and evangelists, too, in the early Church, and the centuries which saw their ousting from such functions and from the ministry were those dark ages between the fifth and the twelfth. "It would, indeed, be singular," writes Miss Tuker, "if women had been, in all times and places, accorded the positions which primitive Church sentiment assigned to them, for history shows that they have been persistently denied all scope in other fields of human activity however suitable to their character." The whole article should be read for its out-of-the-way learning and its modern standpoint.

The End of Male Ascendancy. By Alfred Corner. (The Peto Publishing Company. 4s.)

"The world is wrong because the male has governed it," says Mr. Alfred Corner. "It can no longer be governed single-handed." Public life has suffered because women have been confined mainly to domestic duties by the will of the male, and because men have failed to see that women's ethical function is as indispensable in the social, industrial, and political life of the community as in the life of the home." Women's influence, Mr. Corner maintains, would make for greater co-operation in the world, and against the unregulated competition from which the human race now suffers. To the industrial field women's influence would bring a wider and more comprehensive outlook, so that the labour movement would become social and educative in the fullest sense. "Women will bring the practical touch to trade discussions as they do to home discussions."

In a chapter entitled "Male and Female in One," Mr. Corner shows how, in Christ, the amalgamation of the highest qualities of the male and female became "the bedrock of a world reforming ethic."

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

A Year's Work at Royaumont.

Royaumont, the longest established of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, continued its work without break through the year 1916—and not only continued, but enlarged it. Roughly, a thousand military patients were admitted during the year; and you have to add to this number a goodly total of civilians—women as well as men—taken in when there is room for them in cases of real need. Some idea of the work done may be obtained from the following figures: Number of operations performed, 1,446; of X-ray photographs taken, 2,187; of bacteriological examinations made, 1,746.

When 1916 began its course, many of the bad cases from the heavy fighting of the previous autumn were still lying in the wards, and during the first few months of the year work continued to flow in steadily. Then, with spring, came a slackening, and, in the early summer, an order to empty the hospital. The order was obeyed, and there was a day at the end of June when the soldier patients at Royaumont numbered five! A few days later they had to leaped to 330. The attack on the Somme had begun.

It was at this time—during the "July" rush, as we call it—that we increased the hospital's capacity by the opening of a new ward—"Canada," so-called in honour of the Dominion which provided the funds for its maintenance. It holds close on a hundred beds, and altogether the building is now prepared to receive four hundred patients.

Among the noteworthy events of the year was the visit of the Minister of the Colonies, Monsieur Dumergue, who came especially to see and speak to our Arabs and Senegalese—the latter most popular as patients. Monsieur Dumergue was so well impressed by Royaumont that he obtained for it a donation of ten thousand francs from a fund subscribed by inhabitants of the French Colonies. Later on in the year, in September, came the visit of the President of the French Republic. The President, accompanied by Madame Poincaré, made a tour of the entire hospital, and every man of its 370 patients received a gift in memory of the visit.

With so large a staff, there is inevitably much coming and going, and but seven of the original members of the staff are now to be seen at Royaumont. At the beginning of the year we lost one of our comrades, Sister Mary Gray, by death; and she is not forgotten yet by those who had the honour to work with her.

No one doubts that the work of the months to come will be heavy; the lull on the Western front is the calm before the storm, and in a very short time our resources may be taxed to the uttermost. We believe very firmly that the folks at home will continue to give us the help, in money and in work, which will enable the hospital of Royaumont to see out the end of the struggle.

Visit of Monsieur Venezelos to the Girton and Newnham Unit, Salonika.

On Saturday afternoon, January 5th, a very pleasant little function took place in the Scottish Women's Hospitals, when, on the invitation of Dr. Louise McIlroy, Surgeon-in-Charge, Monsieur Venezelos paid the Hospital the honour of visiting it. Monsieur Venezelos asked many questions about the work of the Hospital, and said it was a surprise to him to find every department managed by women only: it reflected great credit on British organisation and education. He was much interested in various departments of the Hospital, especially the Operating and X-ray Room, and greatly impressed by the proportion of deaths in Hospital to the number of wounded admitted. Told by the Surgeon-in-Charge that this was due to good luck, he immediately replied in French, "It was not due to good luck—it was due to your good surgery." Monsieur Venezelos sat for some considerable time having tea and asking numerous questions about the whole organisation and arrangements. Before leaving he expressed the great pleasure it had been to him to see such work done by women, and on being told how much the staff appreciated the honour of the visit, declared himself grateful for the invitation to come to the Hospital.

The American Unit, Macedonia.

Dr. Agnes Bennett has further developed the work of the America Unit by joining an Outpost Station some miles in advance of the Unit up in the hills overlooking Monastir. The small Hospital accommodates thirty-nine beds, and although lightly equipped, all the necessary operations can be performed there, and serious cases, to whom a few miles' journey over rough mountain roads may mean loss of life, can be dealt with on the spot. All the staff are volunteers, and consist of 2 doctors, 4 sisters, 1 cook, 2 camp orderlies, and 9 Serbian orderlies—there will also be 5 prisoners to help with the heavier outside work, such as the carrying of water and bringing in of fuel, &c. Help is also being given to a Convalescent Hospital some miles distant, where the men are in rather a sad plight—three in two beds. The work will be rough, but the Sisters are delighted to have another opportunity of helping the Serbs. Three men in two beds carries one's thoughts back to the early days of the first Serbian Unit, who, on arrival at Kraguievatz, found in many of the buildings wounded Serbs lying three on two mattresses. Serbia has had to bear a heavy share of the sufferings prevailing in this war.

LONDON UNITS.

There is no further news of Dr. Elsie Inglis.

On January 17th, Mrs. Kinnell had a most successful Drawing Room Meeting, at which Miss Henderson, Administrator of the London Unit, gave an account of her experiences, and Professor Popovic read a Serbian story. Very great enthusiasm was evinced, and other Drawing Room Meetings were promised, and the collection taken amounted to £122 9s. 3d.

Funds continue to be urgently needed to maintain the Unit. Contributions to be sent to the Hon. Treasurers, the Viscountess Cowdray, or to the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, and Equipment to the Equipment Secretary, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

After a year of arduous work in Russia, Miss Moberly has relinquished to Mrs. Elborough her post as Administrator of our Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units, and has come home for a much-needed rest. It is impossible to say too much of her generous voluntary service, and of the unfailing tact and sound good judgment that have kept our Units together, and have won us many friends among the Russians. That they appreciate her unusual qualities is shown by the fact that the South-Western Zemstvo have asked her to return in the Spring to help them with a piece of difficult educational work. The National Union will wish her every success on her return to Russia, and will never forget their debt of gratitude to their pioneer worker in Russia.

Dr. King Atkinson is also at home on short leave, and we hope to hear much that is interesting about her Galician Unit in next week's Common Cause.

It is very encouraging that the Appeal has brought in over £1,200 in January, a great deal of it in small sums, with encouraging letters. Limpsfield and Oxted Suffrage Society has promised £5 a month for six months (in addition to the £98 sent last year), and Mrs. Tiffany, of New York, has promised £5 a month as long as the war lasts. Portsmouth Suffrage Society is holding a White Elephant Sale in March, and Ascot a concert, with Mrs. Alys Russell as speaker, to help our funds.

THE CARE OF MATERNITY.

The following resolutions were passed at the Annual Meeting of the Incorporated Society of Midwives on January 12th:—

1. That the Incorporated Midwives' Institute is strongly opposed to Notification of Pregnancy, because it would tend to prevent early engagement of the doctor or midwife, and to undermine the confidence between midwife and patient, so necessary if effective ante-natal care is to be attained.

2. That the Incorporated Midwives' Institute, recognising that pre-natal care is an important factor in diminishing abortions, stillbirths, and premature labours, considers the midwife is the suitable person to give this care as, under the rules of the C.M.B., she is responsible for the patient from the time of booking.

3. That the Incorporated Midwives' Institute considers that, in regard to the improvement of maternal and infantile health, an adequate supply of well-trained practising midwives is a national necessity, and it views with much apprehension the tendency to belittle the importance of the midwife's work and responsibilities. We, therefore, request the Council of the Midwives' Institute to use their best endeavours to discourage the depletion of the ranks of the midwifery profession, due to midwives taking up the less arduous and better paid work of health visitors. We feel that this can only be done by educating public opinion as to the importance of adequate attendance at childbirth; which can only be attained by improving the status of the midwife and insuring that she is sufficiently paid.

4. That the Incorporated Midwives' Institute considers that satisfactory conditions, in regard to the health of the mother and infant, will only be attained by efficient and hearty co-operation between practising midwives and those maternity centres which recognise that from the time of booking to the end of the puerperium the midwife is responsible to her Authority for the care of mother and child.

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. the Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria St., S.W.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per List to January 18th, 1917	150,464	4	1
Further donations received to January 25th, 1917:—			
*Per Miss Bury, further towards collection from Insch		2	6
*Per Miss Bury, proceeds of Lecture at Oyne		1	4	6
*Per Miss Bury, proceeds of Lecture at Peterhead ...		7	2	0
Miss M. Best		5	0	0
Per Mrs. R. N. Leake, result of street collection, organised by local branch of the N.U.W.S.S., £25 towards upkeep of a "King's Lynn" bed (Salonica)		30	0	0
Per Mrs. Laughton, "J. C. L."			5	0
*Miss C. E. Hossack		5	0	0
*Lady Murray		1	0	0
Miss M. Sands		1	0	0
Mrs. M. Glegg, "M. H. G." ...		1	0	0
Per Miss Millar, "E. E. R." ...		3	0	0
Per Mrs. Abbott, per E. J. Abell, Esq., Assistant Manager, Lloyds Bank Ltd., and Alliance Bank of Simla (Calcutta branch)	13,000	0	0
*Per Miss Mary E. Dalby, Hon. Treas., Birkenhead Society, January subscriptions from members of Birkenhead W.S.S., for Birkenhead bed at Royaumont		3	6	6
Mrs. Aitkenhead, per Mrs. Taylor, per Mrs. Gunn ...		1	0	0
Miss Constance B. Thresher, 1st quarterly donation ...		2	10	0
*Per Miss Pagan, President, Crieff W.S.S., towards upkeep of "Crieff" bed at Royaumont: Mrs. Dalgliesh (£1), Miss M. A. Pagan (£1), Miss Pagan (10s.), Mrs. Richardson Dickson (5s.) ...		2	15	0
Per Miss H. B. Walker, Treas., W.S.S., proceeds from a "Chopin" Recital, given in Dewsbury Town Hall, by Miss Kathleen Irise Smith		24	8	3
*Miss Alice M. Milward ...		5	10	0
*Miss Stallybrass			10	0
*Mrs. S. F. Powel, half-yearly subscription of 15s. and 5s. Girton Unit		1	0	0
Per Mrs. Harmer: £3 from Mr. and Mrs. Harmer, £1 Mrs. Lacy		4	0	0
Miss Rae		5	0	0
*Per Miss Alice Low, result of Mrs. George Crabbies' Meeting on January 12th, £25, to name an "Elizabeth" bed at Royaumont, the Hon. Mrs. Stirling (£3), Lady Stormonth, Darling (£3), Mrs. Tod (£5) ...		44	15	0
Per David W. B. Tait, Esq., Hon. Treas., W.S., Kelso, from collection made in Parish Church, Kelso, at Joint Intercessory Service ...		14	2	8
*Miss Clara V. Reid (Serbians)		25	0	0
From Farmers of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and others, per Patrick Gifford, Esq., share of the proceeds of third Free Gift Sale		568	0	0
Per Miss Bury, per W. H. Salmond, Esq., Hon. Sec. and Treas., Rosyth Navvy Mission Society, Dunfermline, proceeds of Concert		4	5	0
Sale of Fur Rug, per Mrs. Kayser and Miss Hitchcock		1	4	0
F. L. Wrede, Esq.		10	0	0
*Mr. G. W. Currie, M.P., "Queen Street" bed, per Mrs. Salveson, Anonymous (5s.), A. P. Melville, Esq., W. S. (£1), discount on Printer's account (1s.)		1	6	0
Per Miss Robina C. Sheriff, collected by Pupils in Senior 3 Class of Banff Academy, for Roumania, from pennies and halfpennies		0	15	0
*Per Dr. Frances Ivens, Abbaye de Royaumont, proceeds of Theatricals, at Dane Hill, Sussex, arranged by Miss Bernard, towards upkeep of "Dane Hill" bed ...		14	2	6
*Per Mrs. Robertson, Employees of Staff & Saxone Shoe Co. (£5 0s. 9d.), *Employees of Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 13s. 3d.), *Employees of Messrs. Portland Forge & Co. (£1 13s. 3d.) ...		9	7	3
*Per Miss Brunton, Hon. Treas., H.W.S.S., proceeds from Jumble Sale, (£37), Employees of Messrs. Turner, Rutherford & Co. (6th contribution) (£3), Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Pringle, per Miss Williamson (£20)		60	0	0
Miss Nichol			5	0
*Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany (December and January donations)		10	9	8
*Per Miss Robertson, R. E. Millar, Esq. (£10), Henry Ballantyne (£5), Mr and Mrs. J. A. Ballantyne (£2 2s.), 3 members of Walkerburn Co-operative Society Ltd. (£1 10s.), Miss Ballantyne (£1), Miss Sheill (5s.), Anon. (9s. 1d.), Mrs. W. W. Thomson (£3 1s.), towards further upkeep of "Innerleithen" and "Walkerburn" beds		23	7	1
*Per Miss Gray, Buchanan, Hon. Treas., Mid Lanark W.U.S., £50, towards further upkeep of bed in Royaumont; £50 towards further upkeep of bed in Salonica; £10 for an "Empress" Bath in Salonica		110	0	0
*Per Mrs. Clatworthy, Hon. Treas., Gourock W.S.S., proceeds of Entertainment given by Guildry Girls, of St. Bartholomew's Church, Gourock, towards naming "Gourock" bed in Macedonia, per Mrs. Kenney ...		2	13	0
*Per Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Strathie (£5), first instalment from Gold and Silver Collection (£6)		11	0	0
	£164,479	10	0	

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"King's Lynn" (Salonica) (6 months)	Per Mrs. H. N. Leake, Portland-street, King's Lynn, result of Street Collection, organised by local branch of the N.U.W.S.S.
"Elizabeth" (Royaumont) (6 months)	Per Miss Alice Low, result of Mrs. George Crabbie's Meeting on January 12th, 1917.
"Mid Lanark" (Royaumont) (further 1 year)	Per Miss Gray, Hon. Treas., Mid Lanark W.U.S., Eastfield House, Cambuslang
"Mid Lanark" (Salonica) (1 year) ...	

MILLICENT FAWCETT UNITS

FIFTIETH LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	10,600	3	9
Worthing W.S.S., collection at Mrs. Russell's Meeting ...	2	1	6
Miss Janet Archer, collection at C.L.W.S. Meeting		15	0
Mr. F. S. Franklin	1	1	0
Miss A. H. Hoy, Bellefonte, Pa	1	1	0
Miss M. H. Lynn, Bellefonte, Pa.	1	1	0
Miss E. D. Gibb		10	0
Miss K. P. Baster		5	0
Mrs. Jerwood	1	1	0
Miss Jerwood		5	0
Mr. J. Naylor and Miss E. Naylor		10	0
Miss B. Alder	1	0	0
Miss Carbutt		3	0	0
Miss E. B. Gordon		2	0	0
Miss F. L. Barber	1	0	0
Mrs. C. D. Rackham	10	0	0
Miss G. F. Larner	1	1	0
Miss L. M. Deane	3	0	0
Miss M. S. Trehearne	1	0	0
Miss Maud M. Cashmore ...	2	0	0
Miss Irene J. Churchill ...	1	0	0
Miss Marjory Lees	50	0	0
Mrs. J. Wycliffe Wilson ...		5	0
Mrs. A. C. Browne...		10	0
Scalby W.S.S.	3	10	0
Mrs. Aubrey Dowson	1	1	0
Mrs. Charles T. Tiffany (December and January)	10	9	8
Miss S. M. Robinson		3	6
Lady Horsley	1	0	0
Miss Frances A. Geoghegan ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Charles Thompson... ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Hallett	2	2	0
Miss M. A. Woods	2	0	0
Pangborne W.S.S. (2nd donation):—			
Members of the "Fight for Right," collected at Entertainment	5	1	5
Mr. C. E. Hodgkin	2	0	0
Mrs. Fox	2	0	0
Lady Armstrong	2	0	0
Misses Bryan and D'Albiac	2	0	0
Mrs. Elkington	2	0	0
Rummage Sale...	8	2	8
Miss Grace Hartley		10	0
Miss Catherine Scott	1	0	0
Miss Harriet M. Jones		10	0
Miss Florence Ker	5	0	0
Mrs. O'Connell, per Portsmouth W.S.S.	5	0	0
Miss L. Mitchell	1	0	0
Miss May Thresh	1	1	0
The Misses Smith	2	0	0
Guildford W.S.S., collection at Annual Meeting	3	7	5
Dr. Phœbe Sheavyn		10	0
Mr. E. F. Melly	20	0	0
Mrs. H. D. G. Culross		2	6
Mr. F. Hue Williams	1	1	0
Dr. J. W. Browne	1	1	0
Miss M. F. Pugh	5	0	0
Mr. Robert Robinson	5	0	0
Mrs. Edward Hecht	1	0	0
Mrs. Nigel Buchanan	1	0	0
Mrs. Campbell		10	0
	£10,790	13	5

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selbourne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith-street, London, S.W. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

Items of Interest.

The Committee on Production have now given their decision with reference to the strike of Salford tramway employees in consequence of the appointment of female inspectors. These inspectors were first introduced to supervise the female conductors when taking up and leaving duty at car depôts or sub-offices, and afterwards a few were appointed to assist in the work of the depôt, and to board cars to help and give general assistance to female conductors. These inspectors were not intended to discharge the whole of the duties of male inspectors; they were not required to board cars with male conductors or to drive a car, or to conduct running repairs. Their remuneration was fixed at 30s. per week, as compared with a scale of 37s., 38s., and 39s. 6d. for male inspectors, exclusive of war bonus. It was not proposed to reduce the numbers of male inspectors or to leave any such vacancy unfilled.

The Committee, having given full and careful consideration to the statements and arguments submitted, find that under the conditions arranged by the Corporation, and as a temporary and supplementary measure during the period of the war, the objection raised by the union to the employment of female inspectors has not been established.

Apart from the 8,000 women munition workers in the London area, called for on January 29th, a further call is now made by the Ministry of Munitions for 20,000 more women for national filling factories. The work does not require special training, and 27s. to 30s. a week can be earned to start with. A school near London is turning out 1,000 trained women a week, who, after a nine weeks' course, can earn a wage of £2.

At the annual meeting of the members of the Old Meeting Church, Birmingham (which is the oldest Nonconformist church in Birmingham, having been founded in 1689), a new departure was made by the election of women to *official* positions. For some years women had served on the Church Committee in increasing numbers, but, at the meeting on January 26th, for the first time in the history of the Church (1) a woman was elected "Warden," in the person of Councillor Clara Martineau; (2) several women were elected "Sidesmen"; (3) several women were elected "Trustees of the Church." There was no opposition to any of these elections, and the women entered upon their duties quietly and unobtrusively the following Sunday.

A correspondent of *The Manchester Guardian* states that there are now more openings for women grooms than applicants to fill them, and that lately the demand has considerably increased. Messrs. Macnamara, the big Government contractors, who have recently engaged women drivers for mail-carts, are now asking the Women's Volunteer Reserve to send them more women grooms in addition to those they already employ. It will be remembered that the drivers have protested against the women chauffeurs, but it seems that none of the grooms have objected to women grooms.

The first women to be employed as grooms were stationed at Government remount depôts, but now the demand is from private people, and a great many have got situations in the country. Any woman who knows how to manage and care for horses has a good chance of a position, but it is found that, as a rule, the girls who thoroughly understand horses and are really efficient with them come from the educated classes.

The winter report of the Rutland Agricultural Section of the Women's Legion, which has just been issued, gives some striking proofs of the way in which women are working on the land in this country, and it is known that they are doing equally well in others.

It was feared that bad weather would keep many away from the fields once the winter had set in, but the superintendents say that "they are all ready to work when wanted, and go out in all weathers." One superintendent writes that "three women still go to work on the farm here, and a fourth looks after poultry. If four out of five women are sticking to working out in this weather, I think it is very good." These five are the only available women in this particular tiny village.

Another report mentions that "the women employed had no previous training, but the men who worked with them said they did the work thoroughly and well, and never wasted a moment." Reports like these on the employment of women for rough out-door work, to which they are not accustomed, are very encouraging, and prove that Englishwomen of all classes are as adaptable to new conditions as their brothers in the trenches.

A correspondent of *The Postman's Gazette* puts forward a plea for fairer treatment of postwomen employed on part-time cycle duty. "At this office, and I expect at others also, the women are only allowed to perform half a day's duty, because the department do not allow them to cycle more than a certain number of miles per day, when by doing a full duty they would be exceeding the number of miles laid down in the regulations. By this they are deprived of a uniform and boots, which would be supplied to them were they working a full-time duty. Could not the department see their way clear to supply part uniform, or, at least, a pair of boots in such cases? It seems very hard that they should have to wear out their own clothes and boots in the service of the Post Office, when, in the majority of cases, they would be quite willing to perform full-time duty, but are not allowed to do so, owing to the regulation stated above."

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

WEST BROMWICH.—On Thursday, January 25th, at 3 o'clock, a meeting of this Suffrage Society was held in the Public Library Lecture Room. Mrs. Alys Russell gave a delightful address, on "Infant Welfare," to a large and appreciative audience. She also gave a description of the work being done by our able leader, Mrs. Fawcett, at this most anxious time, and told us how carefully the action of the Speaker's Conference was being followed. The Chairman was Alderman J. A. Kenrick, J.P., who gave an account of the Infant Welfare work done in this town, and earnestly begged the ladies present to help with the voluntary work in connection with the Centres. It was he who started this good work in the town, paying all expenses, and helped by a Ladies' Committee for over twelve months, then it was taken over by the Town Council. He said how necessary it was that women should help on the Sanitary Committee, and that four ladies were to be co-opted on it so as to help with their experience and advice.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The monthly meeting of the Executive of the Huddersfield Society was held at 41, Spring-street, on January 9th, Miss Siddon presiding. Letters were read from the treasurers of the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Russian Maternity Unit thanking the Society for donations and clothing sent. Correspondence from Headquarters, in connection with the annual meeting, was dealt with. Two letters were read from the occupants of the Huddersfield "Emily Frances Siddon bed." One was written in Serbian and the other in French.

MID BUCKS.—A members' meeting was held at Great Missenden in October, at which Mrs. Robie Uniacke gave a convincing address on the Political Situation.

Work for the Scottish Women's Hospitals has been going on. A small branch of the Society at Little Kingshill has been working steadily since May, and has sent up 225 articles; and a few members at Great Missenden also have sent up two good parcels.

PANGBOURNE.—As a result of the appeal made at the annual meeting, the collection taken at an excellent entertainment by members of the "Fight for Right" Association was given to the Millicent Fawcett Units. This, together with other kind donations from non-members as well as members, and the proceeds of a rummage sale, held before Christmas, enabled the Society to send over £23 to the M.F.U.

ALDERSHOT.—A meeting was held in the Aldershot Institute on December 12th. Miss May Curwen spoke on the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals Units in the invaded countries. Mrs. Moore kindly took the chair. After deducting expenses the Society was able to send the sum of £8 10s. to the Scottish Women's Hospitals Fund. This included the proceeds from a small competition stall, which proved quite popular.

On January 25th, the Wimbledon Suffrage Society had a meeting at Compton Hall, at which Miss Henderson gave an account of her experiences and illustrated it by beautiful lantern slides. A collection of £62 was made.

On January 19th Mrs. Anstruther kindly lent her drawing-room for an audience to hear Miss Henderson's experiences. The collection amounted to £29 19s. 6d.

Forthcoming Meetings.

FEBRUARY 2.

Birmingham.—Meeting of members to discuss resolutions for Council—Chair, Mrs. Osler, Medical Theatre University, Edmund-street 5.0
Edinburgh.—At 40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Speaker, Miss Eunice Murray 4.30
Southport. — Lecture — Subject, "Scottish Women's Hospitals"—Chairman, His Worship The Mayor 7.30

FEBRUARY 4.

Birmingham.—Railwaymen, Branch 2—Nechells—Speakers, Mrs. Alfred Hughes, Mrs. Ring

FEBRUARY 5.

Islington.—Unity Church, Florence Street—Speaker, Mrs. Bertram—Subject, "Women's Suffrage" 3.15

FEBRUARY 6.

Hackney—Clapton and Hackney Licensed Vehicle Workers' Trade Union, Gravel Pit Mission Hall, Morning Lane—Chair, Mr. A. Roberts—Speakers, Miss Ruth Young and Miss Tynan 8.30

FEBRUARY 7.

Birmingham—Open Meeting for Co-operative Guild members and munition workers, Selly Park—Speaker, Miss Geraldine Cooke 3.30
Birmingham.—Islington Institute—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 7.30
Bristol.—Working Party at 40, Park Street 3.5

FEBRUARY 8.

Birmingham.—Railwaymen's Guild, Saltley—Speaker, Miss Geraldine Cooke 7.30
Islington.—At 8, Hornsey Lane—Chair, Mrs. Holman—Speaker, Mrs. Corbett Fisher 3.0

Scottish Women's Hospitals.

FEBRUARY 5th, at 8 p.m.—Ilford Presbyterian Church Literary Society—Speaker, Miss May Curwen.
FEBRUARY 8th, at 2.30 p.m.—Leytonstone County High School—Speaker, Miss May Curwen.
FEBRUARY 13th (probably), at 7.30 p.m.—Women's Liberal Association, Wheatsheaf Hall, Lower Lambeth Road, S.E.—Speaker, Miss May Curwen.

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All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A NATIONAL FRANCHISE.—A Demonstration will be held in the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London, on Saturday, February 10th, at 3 p.m. (Doors open at 2.30), to demand "Votes for all Men and Women." Speakers: Rt. Hon. Sir John Simon, M.P., Mr W. C. Anderson, M.P., Miss Mary MacArthur, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Barton. Tickets, numbered and reserved, 2s. 6d.; reserved, 1s. and 3d. Apply to the Secretary, National Council for Adult Suffrage, 27, Chancery-lane, London, E.C.

POSITIONS VACANT.

JUNIOR Clerk required by New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage. Apply, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge.

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ORGANISER REQUIRED for temporary work. Must have wide knowledge of industrial conditions.—Apply, stating full particulars, to the N.U.W.S.S. Office, 14, Great Smith-st., S.W.

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WANTED, capable young Gentlewoman, as assistant in boarding-house; domesticated; able to carve; also to cook in an emergency; music an advantage; salary, £40.—Apply, Box 6,460, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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[Continued on page 572

Continued from page 571.]

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